[30th March 1950

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" At this distance of time, I do not remember what I said."

Enquiry into the Socio-Economic effects of Prohibition.

* 30 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an enquiry into the economic effects of Prohibition is proposed;

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the agency proposed is;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a similar enquiry was conducted by the first Congress Ministry through the Universities of the State;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to request the Economic Departments of the Universities to undertake the enquiry; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that he expressed an opinion in the course of his tour in Anantapur district that Prohibition has been a failure?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) An enquiry into the Socio-Economic effects of Prohibition has been started.

" (*b*) Under the direction of the Economic Advisor the enquiry is being conducted by a small team of 4 Economic Investigators assisted by the Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks of the Firka Development Department.

" (*c*) In 1938, at the instance of the Government, the Economics Department of the University of Madras conducted an economic survey in Salem district with a view to assess the results of Prohibition.

" (*d*) No.

" (*e*) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of entrusting such economic enquiry to authorities who are not subject to the State so that their results may be confidently accepted by the general public? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I am sure the public will accept even the results obtained by the Government officers when they are socio-economic matters."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Were the Universities approached on this matter? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, it was not necessary. We thought we could ourselves do it. We have the Firka Development Officers and the Grama Sevaks and we are going to enquire about 20,000 people in 2,000 villages."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that there are many people who think Prohibition is a failure

and others who think that it is a success, would it not be better such an enquiry is conducted by an academic body which has no predilections in one way or the other?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Let us await the results of this enquiry. I hope it will be satisfying to all sections."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the enquiry be published?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" The enquiry must be published. When they are going to enquire about 20,000 people, it cannot be a secret."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Was any questionnaire given to the enquiring officer?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, Sir. Progress reports are received and they will do what is necessary."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" How long will this enquiry take?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" As quickly as possible they will be able to complete it."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Does it mean months or years?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" If necessary, years also. But we hope we will be able to complete it in months."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government consider conducting the enquiry and concluding it within three months?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I am not so sure. So many people have to be enquired in so many places. But I think the Committee will be able to complete the work in two months."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is there any objection to have an impartial Committee to go into this matter?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" There is no disputed point here for an impartial Tribunal or anything like that. This Committee also is certainly impartial."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is not the opinion held even among Congress circles that the effect of prohibition is only illicit distillation?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Certainly not, Sir."

Submersion of the lands bordering Kolleru lake in Eluru taluk.

* 31 *Q.*—SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI (on behalf of Sri M. Narayana Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that lands in Kolleru lake in Eluru taluk are being submerged very often resulting in heavy damage to the crops;